

Mr. Pierre Behnam, Director-South Asia of Pierre Fabre Laboratories re-elected as the President of the Indo-French Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IFCCI)

Mumbai- September 21, 2016: Re-elected for the third consecutive year as the President of the Indo-French Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IFCCI), Mr. Pierre Behnam will represent one of India's most prominent bilateral organizations which unites over 550 leading Indian and French companies with an aim to promote the development of business relations between India and France.

The President's re-election coincides with a favorable economic context between the two countries. With over 1000 French firms in India, France is one of India's top economic partners with investments of close to 20 billion euros and is forecasted to invest 1 to 2 billion euros on a year on year basis. The year 2016 will be remembered as an extremely dynamic and progressive year with France's active involvement in the "Smart Cities" campaign and the significant agreement of India's procurement of 36 Rafael's.

The election was held during IFCCI's 39th Annual General Meeting, which was attended by H.E Alexander Ziegler, Ambassador of France to India. Mr Jean-Marc Fenet, Minister Counsellor, Head of the Regional Economic Service for India and South Asia and also Mr Thibaut Fabre, Director of Business France, India and more than hundred French and Indian business leaders.

Pierre Behnam will preside over the Chamber for one more year and will be able to count on four Vice-presidents to support him in his mission namely Mr. Patrick Rousseau, CEO of Veolia, Ms. Payal Singh, Country Director of AGS Four Winds, Mr. Srinivasan Govindan, Chief Representative of Natixis and the treasurer Ms. Evelyne Colin, CEO of Société Générale. He will also be supported by a dynamic team of 25 IFCCI employees located in four offices: Mumbai, New Delhi, Bangalore and Chennai headed by its Secretary General, Ms Payal S. Kanwar.

Mr Behnam has more than 20-years of international professional experience. Since the last ten years, he has been the South Asia Operations Manager at Pierre Fabre Laboratories, for the pharmaceutical and dermo-cosmetic department. It is the fourth French company that he is heading in Asia. He started in 1993 in India through a joint-venture in Goa, followed by China and Shanghai. In 2003 he was appointed as the CEO of the subsidiary Ethypharm India, a French pharmaceutical company and today he operates as DG South Asia for Pierre Fabre Laboratories. Pierre Behnam is also the Vice-President Advisor of the French Foreign Trade Advisors, India chapter (CCEF) and also received the title of Chevalier of the National Order of Merit in 2012.

About IFCCI

Set up in 1977, Indo-French Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IFCCI), IFCCI is the official bilateral chamber fostering business relations between India and France. The Chamber has four offices in New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Bangalore and more than 550 members comprising of leading French and Indian companies. IFCCI offers a wide range of business consultancy services for French companies exploring the Indian market and Indian companies who wish to expand their business in France.

IFCCI is one of the most active bilateral chambers in India today and organizes over 100 high level events pan India each year. The Chamber also releases a number of publications and supports French companies especially SMEs looking at expanding their presence in India. IFCCI has 4 business centers located in New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Bangalore.